

# **Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board**

## **Minutes of Meeting – January 5, 2011**

**Rhode Island State Archives**

**337 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 020903**

**Attending: Mark Brown, Allison Cywin, Donna DiMichele, Peggy Long, Marlene Lopes, Marilyn Massaro, and Gwenn Stearn, Chair.**

**Not attending: Jane Civins, Russell Franks, Jonathan Galli, Stephen Grimes, Mike Hebert, David Maslyn.**

**Meeting called to order: 10:10 a.m.**

### **I Minutes of meeting – November 3, 2010**

**DiMichele moved to approve the minutes. Long seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.**

### **II Strategic plan – moving the agenda forward**

**The revised and adopted strategic plan strategies were reviewed and discussed item-by-item and assigned either an “ongoing” status or a year/years to be undertaken/completed. Objectives will be developed by Cywin and DiMichele for members’ consideration at a later**

meeting.

### **III Report on Protecting the Past-RI project**

#### **(IMLS Connecting to Collections – Implementation Grant)**

**DiMichele reported that an all day “wet” Disaster Recovery workshop was held in November for those who had completed the Response workshop. Conservators Alex Allardt and Donia Conn created a room-sized mock-up of a disaster stricken collection, complete with toy vermin, shattered glass and other hazards, which had all been soaked with water. Participants learned hands-on how to deal with paper, textiles, magnetic media, poison, weapons, bindings and other collections materials that were waterlogged, soot covered, and contaminated.**

**Project Director Eileen Warburton and Lori Foley of NEDCC made a presentation in December to the RI Emergency Management Advisory Council, chaired by Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts. The presentation centered on the project’s major goal of Coordinated Statewide Emergency Preparedness (COSTEP).**

**The project Steering Committee met and finalized a mission statement as follows. The mission of Protecting the Past-RI is to foster alliances in communication and participation between the cultural heritage community and emergency management agencies to prepare, mitigate, respond, and recover from disasters which may adversely impact the cultural resources community in the state.**

#### **IV News and announcements**

**Brown informed members that the John Hay Library at Brown University had hired Christopher Geissler as Project Archivist for their two year NHPRC funded grant project. He previously worked as an archives and special collections cataloger at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, MA.**

**DiMichele reported that President Obama had signed the Museum and Library Services Act, reauthorizing the IMLS. Senator Jack Reed's role as sponsor and supporter was highlighted.**

**- HELIN will hold a conference on January 13th.**

**- 2011 LORI grants were awarded to Providence Public Library for the Digital Heritage – Remember Rhode Island project and a project of the State Library and State Law Library for Rhode Island Treasures: A Digitization Partnership.**

**- The Reading Across Rhode Island, 2011 book has been chosen – The Unforgiving Minute by RI-born, Craig Mullaney.**

**Stearn informed the Board of the following NEH Preservation Assistance Grant awards: International Tennis Hall of Fame for a preservation assessment of historical scrapbooks, and Newport Art Museum for environmental monitoring to improve the care of collections.**

**Lopes inquired of members their experiences concerning copyright and use of materials in publications without acknowledgement of the repository, as well as fair use/private use issues.**

## **VII Adjournment**

**Long moved to adjourn. Cywin seconded the motion. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.**

**Approved 3/2/2011**